INCOMING TELEGRAM — Department of State — ACTION COPY

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Action
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Control: 384
Rec'd: August 2, 1954
3:23 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 137, August 2, 11 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
AUG - 3 1954

PRIORITY

PASS DEFENSE

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Colonel Monzon accompanied by Minister of Defense Close came to my residence at 7:20 and stated attack by cadets on Liberation Army encampment (EMBTEL 136) was caused by incident last night in which members Liberation Army stripped and otherwise humiliated two cadets. He said as consequence sixty cadets possibly accompanied by two officers had moved out to attack encampment and base military about 800 strong was prepared to move in support of cadets. He and Close were doing everything possible to keep base military from joining fight.

As Monzon was talking Liberation F-47 was in air piloted by Jerry Delarm trigger-happy US citizen flyer who fired on US plane during hostilities. Delarm took off about 6:15 without orders from air force and after flying for about an hour made several strafing runs over cadets. Monzon said if he killed so much as one cadet base military would move against air force. Meanwhile, Colonel Urrutia, chief of air force ordered Lieutenant Guillermo Mendoza to take off and stop Delarm. Before he could do so Delarm ran out of ammunition and landed. He was arrested immediately by Major Oliva, Junta member, before he could be mobbed by both regular and Liberation forces.

Monzon told me he thought situation critical and supposed this would be end of Junta. He was fearful he would be blamed for attack, but blamed situation on allowing Liberation Army to roam about without discipline or leadership. He requested intervention of diplomatic corps in persons of Nuncio, Colonel Funes and myself and asked us to meet this morning in presidential office when Colonel Castillo Armas gets back from out-of-town trip.

Fighting now appears to be localized to Roosevelt Hospital area and both Liberation and regular army groups have so far kept it from spreading.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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